There is no proposal to sell the Company. The reported news item is erroneous. The scheme sanctioned by the BIFR includes mobilisation of resources through sale of surplus land by the Company.

As Government have already accepted the plan for revival of the Company the issue on a contradiction to the alleged press report does not arise.

Performance of the Chiefs of PSUs

2512. CHAUDHARY CHUNNI LAL : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the parameters for appraising the performance of the Chiefs of Public Undertakings and the extent of transparency observed/followed in such appraisal;

(b) whether Government propose to grant extension to present CMD of Andrew Yule and Co. Ltd. despite gross allegations of corruption against him;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any enquiry was conducted to investigate the omissions and commission of CMD, Andrew Yule and Co. Ltd., and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken against such a corrupt official?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) to (e) Chief Executives are appraised with reference to objective parameters of performance and efficacy that take into account achievements of various targets, control over the organisation and the recommendations of the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC). A decision on the tenure of all Chief Executives including of M/s Andrew Yule & Co. Ltd. (AYCL) will be based on these considerations. Allegations received against Chief Executives have to be duly verified. Various complaints have been received relating to executives of the AYCL Group including the CMD. These are being examined.

Income and Expenditure by Prasar Bharati

† 2513. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that average annual income earned by Prasar Bharati has been less than its average annual expenditure during the last few years;

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(b) if not, the amount of average annual income and expenditure during the last three years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that it is necessary that the income should be more than the expenditure in order to strengthen autonomy of the institution; and

(d) if so, what is future plan in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) While in the ideal situation it will be desirable if Prasar Bharati can earn more revenue than it spends on itself every year but considering that expenditure on Prasar Bharati was Rs. 1634.96 crores in 1999-2000 while its income (provisional) was Rs. 681 crores, increasing income to a level higher than annual expenditure is clearly not feasible in the near future. A prominent reason why income cannot be increased beyond a certain level is that Prasar Bharati is a public broadcaster and, therefore, it devotes consider able time in its telecast to social issues and news. Most of such programmes do not attract advertisements or sponsorship. However, Prasar Bharati tries to maximize its income by seeking sponsorship for more programmes and by more efficient utilization of advertising time available to it.

Interview of General Musharraf by DD

2514. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it was an excellent gesture to have General Pervez Musharraf to record an interview for Doordarshan, but is it being reciprocated by neighbour suitably;

(b) whether there is any plan to continue with similar interviews of dignitaries in Pakistan to create wholesome atmosphere in the subcontinent; and